

edge, the edges and the nodes of the tree structure,

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- iv) determining needs and requirements for each of the users, and
- v) determining at least one load of the edges of the tree structure as a function of the needs and the requirements for each of the users to provide a drafted plan; and
- b) generating the network according to the drafted plan.--

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, original claims 1-20, cancels substitute claims 1-20 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP98/00027, and adds new claims 21-44. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

The amendments to the specification and abstract are to conform the specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules, and do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP98/00027 includes an International Search Report, dated June 18, 1998, a copy of which is included. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were considered by the Examiner in the underlying PCT application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP98/00027 also includes an International Preliminary Examination Report, dated April 13, 1999, a copy of which is included, including a translation.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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